

Message Text

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SUBJ: FY80 CARIBBEAN REGIONAL AID PROGRAMS

1. UNDERSTAND LATEST PROPOSED A.I.D. BUDGET SUBMISSION FOR
FY80 HAS ELIMINATED OR LARGELY REDUCED MAJOR PROJECTS IN
SUPPORT OF CARIBBEAN REGIONAL COOPERATION AND PRODUCTIVE
EMPLOYMENT IN AGRICULTURE. UNLESS CARIBBEAN ASSISTANCE
STRATEGY HAS BEEN REVISED TO DOWNPLAY THESE OBJECTIVES, WE
URGE RECONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED BUDGET SUBMISSION.

2. THE A.I.D. PROGRAM PRESENTED TO CONGRESS WILL REPRESENT
A MAJOR SIGNAL TO CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS REGARDING U.S.
PRIORITIES AND INTENTIONS. IT WILL BE A SIGNAL NOT ONLY OF
THE U.S. FOLLOW-UP TO THE CARIBBEAN GROUP MEETING BUT ALSO
A CLEAR DEMONSTRATION AS TO THE TYPE OF SUPPORT THE U.S.
IS PREPARED TO PROVIDE DURING THE CRITICAL NEXT TWO YEARS
DURING WHICH MANY COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES WILL BE
SORTING OUT THEIR ECONOMIC SYSTEMS AND SEVERAL ASSOCIATED
STATES ARE EXPECTED TO GAIN INDEPENDENCE. WE BELIEVE THERE
IS MERIT IN CONTINUING A CONSISTENT POLICY ENCOURAGING
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CARIBBEAN REGIONAL COOPERATION. A MAJOR OBJECTIVE WOULD
BE THE STRENGTHENING OF REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND
PROGRAMS AND AVOIDANCE OF CREATING PERMANENT DEPENDENCIES
ON BILATERAL U.S. SUPPORT. THIS WILL REQUIRE ADE-
QUATE RESOURCES TO BACK REGIONAL COOPERATION INITIATIVES.

3. MAJOR PROJECTS IN SUPPORT OF REGIONAL COOPERATION PRO-

POSED FOR FY1979 AND 80 WHICH SHOULD BE REINSTATED
INCLUDE: A) SMALL FARMER COMMODITY SYSTEMS LOAN/GRANT
(FY79), A CDB REGIONAL PROJECT FOR WHICH A MAJOR
FEASIBILITY STUDY WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF CY1978;
B) THE CARIBBEAN FOOD COOPERATION LOAN (FY1980) WHICH
IS DESIGNED TO SUPPORT THIS NEW REGIONAL INITIATIVE AND
REDUCE THE REGION'S LARGE DEPENDENCY ON FOOD IMPORTS;
C) THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION GRANT (FY1979-80)
DESIGNED TO SUPPORT REGIONAL ECONOMIC STUDIES,
COMMON SERVICES, AND
INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT WITHIN CARICOM AND THE
ECCM, AND D) THE SECOND REGIONAL INTEGRATED AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT LOAN WITH CDB (FY80) WHICH IS IMPORTANT
COMPONENT IN PLANNED AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
AND A LOGICAL FOLLOW-ON TO THE RECENTLY SIGNED SMALL
FARMER AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH PROJECT, AND THE PROPOSED
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND MARKETING PROJECTS.

4. CONSEQUENTLY, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THE SMALL
FARMER COMMODITY SYSTEMS LOAN/GRANT BE RE-ESTABLISHED IN
FY79 BUDGET; THAT CARIBBEAN FOOD CORPORATION
LOAN AND SECOND INTEGRATED AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOAN BE MAINTAINED IN FY80 BUDGET AT \$5 MILLION EACH AND
THAT THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION GRANT BE
INCREASED TO AT LEAST \$2 MILLION FOR FY80.

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